



# Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup



Cooperating with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture  
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Week Ending May 16, 2010

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**Fair Week for Field Work:** Weather conditions were not ideal for field activities throughout most of the week. There were widespread cold temperatures and scattered reports of frost. At the end of the week, some parts of the state experienced thunderstorms accompanied by hail. Pennsylvania had a total of 3 days suitable for field work. Primary field activities were: plowing, planting corn and soybeans, and cutting ryeilage and haylage. Spring plowing continues, and is 86% completed, ahead of last year's estimate of 82% and slightly behind the average of 87%.

### PA Topsoil Moisture for Week Ending May 16, 2010

Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
0	3	82	15

**Crop Progress:** Corn is 70% planted, well ahead of last year's 45% and the average of 64%. Corn emergence is 30%, compared to 22% last year and the 26% average. Corn is 3 inches tall, compared to last year's 1 inch, and the 5 year average of 1 inch. Barley is 88% headed, ahead of last year's 72%, and the average estimate of 83%. Barley is 5% yellow, which is ahead of last year's 4% and the same as the average. Winter Wheat is 53% headed, ahead of both last year's 32% and the average of 36%. Oats are 97% planted, ahead of both last year's 95%, and the average of 96%. Eighty-one percent of oats have emerged which is ahead of last year's estimate of 73% and the average of 70%. Soybeans are 34% planted, ahead of both last year's 16% and the average of 29%. Soybeans are 7% emerged, ahead of last year's 6%, and the average of 5%. Potatoes are 67% planted, ahead of both last year's 45% and the average of 61%. Alfalfa first cutting is 29% complete which is well ahead of last year's estimate of 17% and the average of 17%. Timothy/Clover first cutting is 6% complete, compared to 3% last year, and the average of 4%.

**Crop Condition:** State-wide corn condition is 3% poor, 23% fair, 58% good, and 16% excellent. Wheat condition is 1% very poor, 3% poor, 16% fair, 60% good, and 20% excellent. Oat condition is 16% fair, 71% good, and 13% excellent. Alfalfa stand conditions are; 1% very poor, 2% poor, 15% fair, 59% good, and 23% excellent. Timothy Clover stand conditions are 1% very poor, 2% poor, 13% fair, 63% good, and 21% excellent. The quality of hay made is 7% poor, 38% fair, 47% good, and 8% excellent. Pasture conditions are at 1% very poor, 4% poor, 25% fair, 51% good and 19% excellent. Peach conditions are 3% fair, 64% good, and 33% excellent. Apples condition is 21% fair, 67% good, and 12% excellent.

**Nationwide as of May 9, 2010:** Above average temperatures prevailed along much of the southern United States border stretching from California to Texas, as well as in most areas east of the Great Plains. Most notably, average weekly recordings pushed the mercury to as many as 15 degrees above normal in several Mid-Atlantic Coast States. In contrast, much of the northern Rocky Mountains experienced temperatures well below normal brought on by a late-week cold front. While much of the country was relatively dry during the week, areas in the Northern Tier, the Four Corners States, and east of the Mississippi River accumulated precipitation totaling 200 percent or more above normal. **Corn:** By May 9, corn producers had planted 81 percent of the intended 2010 crop, well ahead of last year and the 5-year average, and the third quickest pace on record behind the 2004 and 2000 crop years, respectively. Despite rainfall limiting fieldwork in some areas, the rapid planting pace continued across much of the major corn-producing region. Throughout the Corn Belt, overall planting progress remained 20 percentage points or more ahead of normal. Conversely, planting was slow in areas of Kentucky and Tennessee following last week's heavy rainfall and severe flooding that left producers contending with standing water and debris-littered fields. Overall, emergence advanced to 39 percent complete by week's end, 26 percentage points ahead of last year and 18 percentage points ahead of the 5-year average. Mostly warm, sunny weather throughout much of the week prompted emergence of 22 percentage points or more in North Carolina, Ohio, and across much of the Corn Belt. **Soybeans:** Nationally, 30 percent of this year's soybean crop was planted by May 9, seventeen percentage points ahead of last year and 11 percentage points ahead of the 5-year average. Despite below average temperatures and rainfall late in the week, producers in Illinois, Iowa, and Minnesota, the three largest soybean-producing States, planted 21 percent or more of their crop during the week. Overall, emergence reached 7 percent complete by week's end, 4 percentage points ahead of last year and 3 percentage points ahead of the 5-year average. **Winter Wheat:** Heading of the winter wheat crop advanced 13 percentage points during the week to 40 percent complete by May 9, slightly ahead of last year but 3 percentage points behind the 5-year average. Overall, 66 percent of the winter wheat crop was reported in good to excellent condition, down slightly from ratings last week but 20 percentage points better than ratings from this time a year ago.

### Weather Data For Week Ending May 16, 2010

Station	Last Week Weather Summary						April 1 - May 16, 2010					
	Temperature				Precipitation		Precipitation			GDD Base 50F		Base 40F
	High	Low	Average	DFN	Total	Days	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	Total
<b>Northwest</b>												
Erie	69	31	50	-7	1.59	3	5.12	0.19	20	295	173	653
Franklin	80	29	50	-7	1.65	3	5.86	0.45	18	252	131	611
Meadville	76	28	49	-7	1.44	4	5.28	0.12	19	246	147	599
Mercer	78	29	51	-6	1.27	4	5.10	-0.10	18	273	146	643
Springboro	73	26	46	-10	1.81	3	5.58	0.83	19	226	95	536
Warren	77	30	47	-9	1.76	2	5.19	-0.27	16	217	106	557
<b>North Central</b>												
Bradford Region	74	24	45	-8	1.07	3	4.29	-1.02	18	184	117	472
Oswayo	77	22	45	-10	1.42	4	5.24	0.32	19	146	59	419
Kane	77	24	45	-7	1.81	3	4.61	-1.03	15	140	76	418
Laporte	76	29	46	-10	1.17	5	5.06	-0.18	27	215	84	539
Lock Haven	85	29	51	-7	1.10	1	4.21	-0.68	13	300	152	698
Port Allegany	77	24	46	-8	1.51	3	4.81	-0.11	18	172	85	474
Renovo	86	30	51	-7	1.67	3	4.78	-0.11	15	274	126	670
Ridgway	79	25	47	-7	2.08	3	5.60	0.01	17	171	92	483
Stevenson Dam	84	27	49	-5	1.40	2	4.69	-0.90	13	220	141	597
Towanda	80	30	49	-8	1.01	3	3.76	-0.90	16	227	93	588
Wellsboro	78	26	45	-8	1.21	4	4.32	0.40	17	183	114	501
Williamsport	85	32	54	-6	1.37	2	4.37	-0.75	13	405	212	833
<b>Northeast</b>												
Hawley	79	27	47	-8	0.84	3	4.84	-0.61	16	185	98	509
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	78	31	51	-8	0.68	3	3.46	-1.32	17	329	167	709
Susquehanna	78	29	48	-7	1.06	4	4.21	-1.45	21	213	137	563
<b>West Central</b>												
Butler	79	28	51	-6	0.80	3	4.75	-0.45	18	249	106	618
New Castle	82	30	51	-6	0.96	3	5.17	0.42	18	293	161	677
Slippery Rock	81	28	51	-5	0.90	2	5.10	0.17	18	274	157	655
<b>Central</b>												
Altoona/Blair	82	35	53	-6	1.79	3	6.07	1.09	16	341	165	731
DuBois	79	29	51	-6	1.02	2	4.46	-0.84	17	295	173	667
Lewistown	83	36	53	-7	1.11	2	4.37	-0.58	17	320	107	741
Middletown	83	37	56	-6	0.84	2	6.03	0.63	13	420	171	861
Prince Gallitzi	81	27	50	-6	1.08	4	5.47	-1.18	18	214	105	573
Selinsgrove	81	31	52	-7	0.69	1	3.68	-1.38	13	286	114	695
State College	81	35	52	-7	1.17	2	3.61	-1.07	16	332	173	730
<b>East Central</b>												
Allentown-Bethel	80	32	53	-7	1.10	2	6.44	0.76	15	341	139	751
Lehighton	76	31	51	-9	1.08	2	6.11	0.62	15	300	109	703
Matamoras	82	28	49	-10	0.67	3	4.40	-1.80	13	233	78	600
Mt_Pocono	74	27	48	-5	0.83	4	4.91	-1.52	16	244	181	587
<b>Southwest</b>												
Pittsburgh/Alle	81	34	57	-1	1.06	3	3.88	-1.48	15	456	277	859
Indiana_PA	80	29	51	-7	1.32	4	5.29	-0.55	17	269	97	648
Myersdale	79	26	51	-6	0.96	4	5.19	-1.00	19	170	29	500
Mount Pleasant	80	30	55	1	0.83	4	5.20	-1.01	17	325	214	701
Pittsburgh Intl	81	31	57	-2	0.84	2	3.78	-1.16	14	422	224	821
Connellsville	84	30	56	-4	0.81	3	5.39	-0.58	20	384	176	783
Waynesburg	84	29	56	-2	0.61	3	4.30	-1.18	15	328	165	708
<b>South Central</b>												
Biglerville	85	33	54	-7	0.90	3	3.97	-1.31	12	371	123	792
Everett	83	30	52	-6	1.07	4	5.60	0.35	17	257	95	642
Hanover	84	33	55	-7	0.76	3	3.35	-1.93	14	386	138	804
Harrisburg_AP	85	37	56	-5	0.86	3	5.93	0.53	13	416	163	850
South Mountain	81	31	51	-8	1.07	3	3.97	-1.01	13	260	89	638
York	84	30	55	-7	0.92	2	3.75	-1.72	13	358	102	771
<b>Southeast</b>												
Green Lane	82	34	54	-6	0.81	3	4.51	-1.32	14	370	183	800
Hamburg	80	35	54	-5	0.84	3	6.16	-0.14	12	370	225	794
West_Chester	82	32	53	-8	0.85	3	4.84	-1.23	12	341	101	761
Lancaster	84	35	55	-5	0.70	2	4.26	-1.09	13	368	162	789
Neshaminy Falls	83	32	56	-4	1.04	4	4.11	-2.24	14	379	179	816
New Holland	85	36	54	-6	0.85	3	4.89	-0.46	15	394	188	814
Philadelphia	85	42	59	-4	1.01	2	4.27	-1.30	15	530	252	987
Philadelphia NE	83	39	57	-6	0.60	5	3.94	-1.63	25	458	180	906
Reading	83	35	56	-4	0.86	2	6.40	0.35	13	437	249	876
Sellersville	82	31	52	-7	0.81	3	5.07	-0.76	15	326	139	730
Willow Grove	82	37	55	-5	0.86	2	3.54	-2.81	14	428	228	867

DFN = Departure from normal (using 1961-90 normals period).  
 Precipitation (rainfall or melted snow or ice) and pan evaporation in inches.  
 Precipitation days = days with precipitation of .01 inch or more.  
 Air temperatures in degrees fahrenheit.  
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## REPORTERS COMMENTS, By County

*Reporters are from Extension Service (Ext), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Farm Service Agency (FSA), Conservation District (CD), farmers, commodity specialists, or other knowledgeable individuals.*

**ADAMS COUNTY, Judy A Behney (FSA)** - Cold temperatures may have affected fruit crops. Corn and soybeans are still being planted when soil conditions permit. Some wheat still doesn't look good as it was too wet last fall and winter. Oats look good. Fruit crops continue to show signs of fruit. Vegetable planting continues. Strawberries are being harvested. The cold temperatures could have some affect on their yields.

**CAMBRIA COUNTY, Dolly Little (FSA)** - Last week was a cold and wet week, with snow, hail, and rain. The weather warmed on Friday, but it rained all day long. Saturday was cool and sunny. There were high winds during the week.

**CENTRE COUNTY, Dick Decker** - Spring field work continued. Some frost occurred last week.

**CLARION COUNTY, Tom Tanner (FSA)** - The freeze on the 10th of May has damaged the peach and apple crop. It soon will be time to make haylage and hay.

**CRAWFORD COUNTY, Ron McCorkle (NRCS)** - The weekend was good for planting corn and starting the cutting of forage after the heavy rains Thursday evening and Friday morning. Pastures are greening up quickly with the spring rains.

**ERIE COUNTY, Nancy Lewis (FSA)** - Two heavy frosts and the high winds caused widespread damage to the grape crop.

**FRANKLIN COUNTY, Jonathan Rotz (EXT)** - The frost damage was spotty after the beginning of last week. Agronomic crops have faired well. Much of the commercial horticulture crops, such as berries and cherries, were lost.

**FRANKLIN COUNTY, Thomas Kerr** - It was a poor week for making hay. Showers and cool weather prevailed. There were some pockets of frost, but no known damage to tree fruits. Strawberries took a hit at several locations. The showers early in the week delayed corn planting. The strong showers on Friday led to a few reports of hail up to quarter size.

**INDIANA COUNTY, David B. Overdorff** - All of the oats are up and looking good. The first corn planted is also up and about 2-3 inches. We need some good degree days to keep the oats and corn growing. The moisture is about average and adequate right now for growing. Maybe we will plant some soybeans if the weather will cooperate.

**LANCASTER COUNTY, Jeff Graybill (EXT)** - The corn in Lancaster County largely avoided the frost last week. It has excellent stands. Virtually all first cutting alfalfa has been harvested.

**MERCER COUNTY, James P. Rust** - On Monday morning the temperature was 27 degrees. Many growers are saying that their barley was damaged from the freeze. Early planted sweet corn was frozen and still looks sick. Some corn is showing no re-growth. Many fields are still showing a surplus of moisture.

**POTTER COUNTY, Bill Waltman (EXT)** - Cool and wet conditions last week hampered all activities.

**SCHUYLKILL COUNTY, Terry Stehr (FSA)** - Schuylkill County growers made it through the week with two days of scattered frost. The impact of this cold weather is not fully known at this time. Fruit growers are concerned that fruit will show frost rings. Most of our sensitive crops were still in the greenhouse, so there was little impact from the frost on field crops.

**SNYDER COUNTY, William C. Sheaffer** - Most of the area received an inch of rain early in the week. Frost was widespread as well, with minimal damage. The cold temperatures have caused the emerged corn to take on a very pale color. The wheat is beginning to head and is looking good. The main activities for the week were planting, spraying and making haylage.

**TIOGA COUNTY, Sherri Butters (FSA)** - There were hard frosts on Monday and Tuesday mornings. Alfalfa and timothy/clover stands again were set back. Pastures were doing well due to the warm weather a week ago. The heavy rains on Friday will halt all field work for several days.

**WESTMORELAND COUNTY, John Lohr (FSA)** - There was only about two days dry enough for corn and soybean planting. The wet conditions slowed the hay harvest. The planted crops need warmer temperatures.

**WESTMORELAND COUNTY, Tom Sierzega (NRCS)** - The spring tillage, corn and soybean planting are moving in full swing. Some much welcomed rain arrived this week, but has slowed the planting process.

**PA Crop Progress for Week Ending May 16, 2010**

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Spring plowing	86	82	87
Corn, planted	70	45	64
Corn, emerged	30	22	26
Corn average height, inches	3	1	1
Barley, heading or headed	88	72	83
Barley, turning yellow	5	4	5
Wheat, heading or headed	53	32	36
Oats, planted	97	95	96
Oats, emerged	81	73	70
Soybeans, planted	34	16	29
Soybeans, emerged	7	6	5
Potatoes, planted	67	45	61
Alfalfa, 1st cutting	29	17	17
Timothy clover, 1st cutting	6	3	4

**PA Crop Condition for Week Ending May 16, 2010**

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Corn	0	3	23	58	16
Wheat	1	3	16	60	20
Oats	0	0	16	71	13
Alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures stand	1	2	15	59	23
Timothy clover stand	1	2	13	63	21
Quality of hay made	0	7	38	47	8
Pasture	1	4	25	51	19
Peaches	0	0	3	64	33
Apples	0	0	21	67	12